

Farmers' Department.

WINTER PLANNING.—As winter is the season for planning future operations on the farm, so it should be in the flower garden. Any changes it may be desirable to make should be carefully considered, and everything but the actual work may be performed. The catalogues of nurserymen and seedsmen may be looked over, and lists of shrubs, ornamental trees, and flowering plants be made, to be ordered sufficiently early to ensure their timely reception. The mistakes of the past season should be rectified as far as possible. If any plants have been found unsuited to the soil or situation of the garden, they should be thrown out and a selection of appropriate sorts made to fill their place.

In laying out a new garden, it is very desirable to have the supervision, or at least the advice, of an experienced gardener. A few dollars expended at the outset may save a great deal of trouble and expense in making alterations to correct the errors which an unskilled person will unavoidably commit.

There is much work which may be performed in the winter. Net frames of wood or wire may be prepared for climbing plants; large number of sticks, neatly made and painted, should be procured for the purpose of supporting fall plants and flower stems; and all gardening implements should be put in first rate order.

Packets of seeds should be overhauled, being careful to preserve the names of the different sorts. Bulbs should be examined, and if not hardy are to be used for starting flowers, the sashes should be got out, glazed and painted, and the frames repaired if necessary, so that they shall be ready when wanted.

Many other things will suggest themselves as proper to be done at this season. In fact, nothing should be left for spring work except the actual manual labor.—*Country Gentleman.*

SEEDS—How Long Will They Keep Good?—There is no general answer to the question, as seeds of different kinds, collected and preserved with equal care, will vary in the length of time they retain their powers of germination. Some seem to be good after an indefinite period, while others are not to be depended upon after they are a year old. The seeds of some trees will not germinate at all if once allowed to dry, and others will only appear the second year after planting. Works upon horticulture are generally deficient in information upon the raising of seeds and the length of time they may be safely kept. While it is safest to keep them at a uniform temperature just above freezing, there are many that will bear great extremes of heat and cold. Plants have been raised from seeds taken from raspberry jam which must have been exposed to a heat of 220 degrees. When buried in the earth, below the reach of those influences which induce germination, there seems to be no limit to the vitality of some seeds. Among plants commonly cultivated, the seeds of carrots, onions, parsnips, and salsify, are not to be relied upon when over a year old. Beets, spinach, lettuces, celery and parsley will keep two or three years. Radishes, cabbages and turnips, four or five years. Melons and cucumbers may be kept ten or more years; old seeds of these are preferred by some gardeners, as the vines are said to be more prolific and less luxuriant than those from fresh ones. Good seed being heavier than water will generally sink in it, but this is not applicable to those with a hairy or spongy seed-coat; such seeds will float even when sound. The only sure test is to try to sprout them in boxes or pots of earth. If they do not germinate there, they should be rejected.

ORIGIN OF PLANTS.

Should the following record interest our readers as it has us, it will fully repay the space it occupies in our columns.

Madder came from the East, Celery originated in Germany. The chestnut came from Italy. The onion originated in Egypt. Tobacco is a native of Virginia. The nettle is a native of Europe. The citron is a native of the East. Oats originated in North Africa. Rye came originally from Siberia. The pear and apple came from Europe.

Spinach was first cultivated in Arabia. The sunflower was first brought from Peru.

The mulberry tree originated in Prussia.

The gourd is probably an Eastern plant.

The walnut and peach came from Persia.

The horse-chestnut is a native of Tibet.

The cucumber came from the East Indies.

The quince came from the island of Crete.

The radish is a native of China and Japan.

Peas are supposed to be of Egyptian origin.

The garden beans came from the East Indies.

The garden cress is from Egypt and the East.

Horseradish came from the south of Europe.

Zigzag Flax shows its origin by its name.

The Coriander grows wild near the Mediterranean.

The Jerusalem artichoke is a Brazilian product.

Hemp is a native of Persia and the West Indies.

The cranberry is a native of Europe and America.

The parsnip is supposed to be a native of Arabia.

The Potato is a well known native of Peru and Mexico.

The currant and gooseberry came from Southern Europe.

Rape seed and cabbage grow wild in Sicily and Naples.

Backwheat came originally from Siberia and Tartary.

Barley was first found in the mountains of Himalaya.

Millet was first known in India and Abyssinia.

Writers of undeniably respectability state that the cereals and others of these edible productions grow spontaneously in that portion of Tartary east of the Tali Tagh and north of the Hindu-Kush mountains. —*Porter's Spirit of the Times.*

A HINT TO FARMERS.—There are three things easily raised and harvested, for which the farmers may depend upon them there will be an enormous demand and high prices paid during the war. We refer to potatoes, beans and onions. The farmers could not do a better thing for themselves and their country than to plant these vegetables very extensively. If it appears as the spring advances that the wheat crop is likely to be short, and that fruit will be scarce, onions, potatoes and beans must be had to fill the vacuum.

WHITWORM.—White fences and out-buildings indicate the thrifty farmer and a tidy household. Put half a bushel of mashed lime in a clean, tight barrel, pour over it boiling water until it is covered five inches, stir briskly until the lime is thoroughly mixed, then add more water until it is as thin as desired, next add two pounds of sulphate of zinc and one of common salt; then apply with a common whitewash brush, giving a good coat in April and October, or at least once a year.

TEMPTING JAVA PAINTED IN COLOR.—We all love to read of such places, and here is the traveler's description of Batavia, in the Island of Java.—Batavia is a brilliant specimen of Oriental splendor. The houses—which are as white as snow—are placed one hundred feet back from the street, the intervening space being filled with trees, literally alive with birds, and every variety of plants and flowers. Every house has a piazza in front and is decorated with beautiful pictures, elegant lamps, chases &c., while rocking-chairs, lounges, and ottomans of the most delicate descriptions, furnish luxurious accommodations for the family, who sit here morning and evenings. At night the city is one blaze of light from the lamps. The Hotels have galleries of eight or ten acres in extent around them, covered with fine shady trees, with fountains, flower-gardens, &c. Indeed, so numerous are the trees, that the city almost resembles a forest. The rooms are very high and spacious, without carpets, and but few curtains. Meals are served up about the same as at first-class hotels in the United States, although the habits of living are quite different. At daylight coffee and tea are taken to the guest's rooms, and then again at eight o'clock light refreshments. At twelve-breakfast is served, and at seven, dinner. Coffee and tea are always ready day and night. No business is done in the middle of the day on account of the heat. The nights and mornings are cool and delightful; birds are singing all night. The thermometer stands at about 82 degrees throughout the year. The Island of Java contains a population of 10,000. The Island abounds with tigers, leopards, amanadas, and venomous insects of all kinds. The finest fruits in the world are produced in great profusion.

LETTER TO A CONSCRIPT.

The following amusing letter to a gentleman of wealth who was drafted, was written by an officer who was in Washington at the time. The letter was addressed as follows: "To Ransford P. C.—Private in the United States Army, Fayetteville, Oneonta county, N. Y."

WILLIAM'S HOTEL,

Washington, April 20, 1863.

LOVED CONSCERNE:—Permit me to congratulate you on the lucky circumstance which gives you the salary of thirteen dollars per month and three dollars fifty for clothing; a chance to study geography in a manner at once sound and certain; a chance to go up the ladder of Fame and become immortal; a chance to estimate men and hard tack, and to drink commissary whiskey worth 37 1/2 cents per gallon. I also congratulate my country. I know you can do all these things, and more. There may be some things, however, to consider, regarding the "mighty pump and circumstance of war" on which you would desire a friendly posting. A few of these I am happy to notice, and will ask your distinguished consideration to all my remarks.

In the first place, sleep. Repose is a great study—the ancients reduced this to a science, and the example of Socrates is one showing how a good sleep may be carried too far. His last sleep was too much for him. I am certain you can exert the famous philosopher, for I know you can stand any amount of repose. Do not sleep in a hemlock swamp, or on picket, or on a late supper. I would advise a preparation for sleep. Tie up your clothes and hide them secure in the shelter of tent, or the freedom of well regulated straw stack, and after uttering your "now I lay me," incline yourself with a gentle slope calculated to induce water to seek your feet.

2d—EAT. This exercise is designed to the celebration of the pie-neces of northern Ohio, at Newburg, among many interesting relics on exhibition, was an English chest that came over in the Mayflower with the Pilgrims. It is still in a remarkably good state of preservation, the elaborate carving on the front shining as brightly, perhaps, as it did when it was first landed on Plymouth rock. Another interesting relic was an ax, with which the son of Abraham Beardmore commenced the blacksmith business in the town of Omaha in Nebraska. The Company has determined upon the precise point of departure of said branch road, from the Missouri river, and located the same within the limits designated in the order.—*Local Free Press.*

3d—MONEY. Get it! First from the Paymaster, never letting any villein have a chance to your hard earnings. 2d—By method of speculation. After pay day amuse yourself with a quiet game of draw, and should you hold your kings and one ace, invest your pile, and see how your energy will be rewarded. P. S.—Don't hold

your aces too often, having your sleep and food and money. You may compare yourself favorably to the Hotel Flunkey Boy, and all you may now desire will be some assistance in marching on a long march straggler; ask advice of Surgeon or his assistant, get in or behind an ambulance, borrow a stray horse and connive him for your comfort; cut off the tail of your coat and say you are mounted cavalry; creep under a hedge, and remember your sleep—you might sing a few lines:—

"There is rest for the weary."

Now, my brave hero, I congratulate you. I shake your hands and say familiar things to you. I see you through the thick smoke of battle and Meerschaum pipes. And when the mild, fair evening of peace shall come, we will sit under the shade of our own vine and fig tree," or "John Hodges' ad' op," and swap lies about this cruel war, or stories of men who will be chased—of men who lured us and whom we chased. You shall then be a Congressman. I will be a contractor. Under that partnership our country will be no where. I hear the solo that follow your departure, and the Thanksgiving which heralds your return. Who would not be a conscript? Don't speak at once. Poetry, prudence and principle might urge that I request you to remember the girl you have behind. Return to her and to us, cased, not with flesh, but with glory. Be prudent, be active, be gallant. Forget not courage, and remember my kind interest.

Yours, powder-puff and patriarch,

300 Franklin Street.

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